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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2006

VIA: AIR  
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. MAVA-8  
(MIL/8532)

SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, EE  
FROM : Chief of Station, Vienna, EE  
SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational  
SPECIFIC— Recruitment  
Activities of Frans PRANTNER, aka  
PECKENKA, Suspected RIS agent.

DATE: 29 August 1952

Deadline:            Check use

No Action Req. by cable ☐

See para 7 by pouch ☒

Hq Comments Req. by cable ☐

See para            by pouch ☐

For info read files ☒

Reference: MAVA-11000 (MIL/6952)  
not used

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DCI MICRO. SER.

GROOVY

1. At a meeting on 27 August 1952, EE forwarded a report concerning the recent activities of Frans PRANTNER, aka PECKENKA, previously reported in MAVA-11000 as being a suspected RIS agent. MAVA-11000 stated that PRANTNER was posing as a CIC employee, but that the individuals whom he had approached suspected that he was actually recruiting for the RIS. Our checking with CIC revealed that they had employed PRANTNER as a casual informant but failed to give any indication that CIC had charged him with specific recruiting tasks. A summary of the EE and EE reports is contained in the following paragraphs.

2. During late July and early August 1952, PRANTNER contacted two former Bupo Wien Kriminalbeamten who had been discharged from the Bupo because of their activity for the Gestapo during World War II. PRANTNER attempted to recruit these two individuals for unspecified investigative tasks, to be carried out under his direction. EE provided the following information concerning the two men approached by PRANTNER.

a. Anton BROEDL: born 9 January 1907 in Rathau, CSR, Sudetan German. Austrian national. Roman Catholic. Married. Resides Hetzendorferstrasse 175-187, 19 Stiege, Tur 1, Vienna XIII. Parents: Josef and Elizabeth BROEDL. 5'9" tall, thin build, brown hair, brown face, usually wears Lederhosen and a green leather coat. Owner of a red motor cycle. Released from a mental institution, Am Steinhof, on 10 February 1951; committed to this institution following a court hearing in 1950.

Member of the Vienna police during the period 1936(?)–1945. Incorporated into the Gestapo in 1938. Worked closely with Gestapo official Johann SAMITZER;

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active in SANITZER's group, working on investigation of Soviet agents parachuted into Austria.

b. Emmanuel HEISTER (former name BUKVAR): name changed during World War II. Born 5 April 1914 in Vienna. Resides Lerchenfelderstrasse 156/23, Vienna VIII. Parents: Josef and Ladmilla BUKVAR. Former residence Kaiserstrasse 87, Vienna VII. Business employee. According to an entry in the Strafreisteramt, on 15 March 1940, HEISTER was condemned to six months' imprisonment by the Bezirksgericht Oberwarth; nature of the charge unknown.

During the period 1938-45, HEISTER, a member of Bupo Wien, served with the Gestapo in Austria. He was released without pension from the police in 1945. During the period 1945-48, he worked for a time as a representative of USIA in Western Europe; also for the publication Der Stern. At present unemployed.

3. [ ] learned of PRANTNER's recruitment attempts through casual conversation with BROEDL and HEISTER, both of whom [ ] has known for many years, having served with them in the Bupo Wien. HEISTER described PRANTNER's proposition but did not state what action he had taken concerning it. BROEDL declared that he was much interested in the proposition and had already provided PRANTNER with a photograph and a short biographical statement.

4. [ ] reported that BROEDL had stated that PRANTNER's approach represented the second recent intelligence employment opportunity which had come to his attention. BROEDL then stated that during July Johann SANITZER had personally visited Vienna and had contacted several of his former police colleagues. BROEDL said that he had not personally seen SANITZER but had heard (source unknown) that SANITZER had remained in Vienna for some time, residing somewhere in the I Bezirk. It was BROEDL's opinion that SANITZER had visited Vienna in order to see his wife, who resides in Vienna, and in order to recruit personnel to assist him in his new position with the East German police. BROEDL could give no precise data concerning the SANITZER position with the East German police but stated that he had heard only that SANITZER occupied a "high" post. BROEDL told [ ] that he was very interested in contacting SANITZER and would gladly move to East Germany to work for SANITZER.

5. [ ] also learned that PRANTNER is often seen in the company of one Herta KREBS, and that on occasion KREBS has participated in attempts to recruit various former detectives of Bupo Wien. [ ] provided the following personal data re PRANTNER and KREBS.

a. PRANTNER - Personal Description: 5'9" tall,

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powerful build. Full, red face. Dark blond hair, combed straight back. Clean shaven. Does not wear a hat. Mornings may be located in a Gasthaus at the corner of Loewengasse and Weissgaerberlaend, Vienna III.

b. Herta KREBS: Born 4 March 1918 in Korneuburg, Lower Austria. Stenographer. Austrian national. Single. Resides Ziehrerplatz 8/5, Vienna III. Parents: Konrad and Josefa KREBS.

6. Comments: We are rechecking with CIC to determine the exact role of PRANTNER and the nature of his activities for CIC. While both [ ] and [ ] are convinced that PRANTNER is working for the RIS, we have no information which definitely proves this tie. At the present time we cannot assess the truth of the BROEDL story concerning SANITZER's appearance in Vienna. SANITZER's presence and role in the East German police have been the subject of much recent rumor, but this is the first indication of his presence in the Vienna area. [ ] will continue his casual contact with BROEDL and HEISTER. At the present time we are name-checking the individuals involved; results will be forwarded in a subsequent pouch. Our files indicate that Anton BROEDL was formerly a SANITZER staff member, working in the SANITZER section charged with capture and exploitation of Soviet W/T operators parachuted into Austria. (reference: LSX-33).

7. Headquarters Action: Headquarters traces are requested concerning the following individuals:

Anton BROEDL  
Emmanuel HEISTER  
Herta KREBS.

Distribution:

2 - EE  
2 - Vien  
1 - Sals  
1 - WRH/PDH  
1 - Grasper (Grower)  
1 - Grasper (PGE)

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